

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
BIB-01 /062 W
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R 011622Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8439
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV THE HOCKEY FAN

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2894, (B) MOSCOW 2704

1. BREZHNEV WAS SEEN ON TWO OCCASIONS RECENTLY ENJOYING HOCKEY GAMES (MOSCOW DINAMO VERSUS KHIMIK AND MOSCOW CENTRAL ARMY CLUB VERSUS LENINGRAD ARMY CLUB) AT CENTRAL SPORTS PALACE IN MOSCOW. ON EVENINGS OF FEBRUARY 27 AND 28, POLCOUNSELOR OBSERVED BREZHNEV SEATED IN VIP BOX ACCOMPANIED BY AIDE ALEKSANDROV AND OTHERS OF HIS STAFF. ABOUT A DOZEN SECURITY PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE SEATED OUTSIDE VIP BOX.

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2. AS OBSERVED FROM ACROSS THE RINK, BREZHNEV APPEARED RELAXED AND MOVED WELL AS HE EXITED AND RE-ENTERED DURING INTERMISSIONS. BREZHNEV DID NOT APPLAUD OR OTHERWISE DEMONSTRATE EXCITEMENT DURING MATCHES. HE STAYED FOR FULL THREE PERIODS BOTH NIGHTS. SEVERAL TIMES DURING BOTH NIGHTS THOSE SEATED NEXT TO HIM SMOKED CIGARETTES BUT

BREZHNEV ABIDED BY THE USUAL FREQUENT ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT
"SMOKING IN OUR SPORTS PALACE IS CATEGORICALLY FORBIDDEN."

3. BREZHNEV NEITHER GAVE NOR RECEIVED ANY ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF LARGE CROWDS SHARING SPORTS EVENTS. THERE WAS NO
UNUSUAL PEERING OR POINTING IN DIRECTION OF BREZHNEV
ALTHOUGH HIS PRESENCE WAS OBVIOUS.

4. ELABORATE SECURITY MEASURES WERE IN EVIDENCE FOR
TRAFFIC TO AND FROM THE SPORTS PALACE, PARKING AND
POSITIONING OF SECURITY PEOPLE AT EXITS OF VIP AREA TO
PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE LAST MINUTE ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW
BREZHNEV OUT OF HALL.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION IN SOVIET MEDIA OF BREZHNEV
ATTENDANCE AT HOCKEY GAMES. HOWEVER, THE INTENT OF THE
IMAGERY IS CLEAR: LEONID IL'ICH HAS RECOVERED TO THE
POINT THAT HE IS ABLE NOT ONLY TO FULFILL MAJOR
PROTOCOLARY AND SUPERVISORY ROLES (REFTELS) BUT ALSO TO
ENJOY A FULL EVENING WATCHING SPORTS WITH THE MASSES.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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